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An optical scanning device includes a first optical system, including a light source, for directing a light beam, emitted from the light source, to an optical deflector. A second optical system focuses the light beam deflected by the deflector on an effective scanning area of a scanning surface. The light source is continuously kept lit when scanning outside of the effective scanning area. A light shield member is positioned between the deflector and the scanning surface to block at least a portion of the light beam emitted during the period of time when the light source is continuously kept lit when scanning outside of the effective scanning area.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims and add new Claims 15 to 20 to read as follows.

All claims currently pending in the application, including those not amended, are reproduced below. A marked-up copy of amended claims, showing the changes made thereto, is attached.

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1. (Amended) An optical scanning device comprising:

a first optical system including a light source, for directing a light beam emitted from the light source to deflection means; and

a second optical system for focusing the light beam deflected by the deflection means on an effective scanning area of a scanning surface,

wherein the light source is continuously kept lit when scanning outside of the effective scanning area and wherein a light shield member is positioned between the

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deflection means and the scanning surface to block at least a portion of the light beam emitted during the period of time when the light source is continuously kept lit when scanning outside of the effective scanning area.

2. (Unchanged From Prior Version) An optical scanning device according to claim 1, wherein a scanning efficiency of the optical scanning device is 70% or higher.

3. (Unchanged From Prior Version) An optical scanning device according to claim 1, wherein the light beam from said first optical system is incident at an oblique angle on a deflection surface of the deflection means in a sub scanning cross-sectional plane.

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4. (Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:
an optical scanning device according to claim 1;
a photoconductive body arranged on the scanning surface of said optical scanning device;
development means for developing, into a toner image, an electrostatic latent image that has been formed with the light beam scanning said photoconductive body;
transfer means for transferring the developed toner image onto a paper sheet; and
fixing means for fixing the transferred toner image onto the paper sheet.

5. (Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:
an optical scanning device according to claim 1; and
a printer controller for converting code data input from an external device
into an image signal and feeding the image signal to said optical scanning device.

6. (Unchanged From Prior Version) An image forming apparatus according
to one of claims 4 and 5, wherein the image is formed through a Background Area
Exposure process.

7. (Amended) An optical scanning device comprising:
a first optical system, including a light source, for directing a light beam
emitted from the light source to a deflection surface of deflection means in a beam width
wider than the width of the deflection surface in a main scan direction; and
a second optical system for focusing the light beam, deflected by the
deflection means on an effective scanning area of a scanning surface,
wherein the light source is continuously kept lit when scanning outside of
the effective scanning area and wherein a light shield member is positioned between the
deflection means and the scanning surface to block at least a portion of the light beam
emitted during the period of time when the light source is continuously kept lit when
scanning outside of the effective scanning area.

8. (Unchanged From Prior Version) An optical scanning device according to claim 7, wherein a scanning efficiency of the optical scanning device is 80% or higher.

9. (Unchanged From Prior Version) An optical scanning device according to claim 7, wherein the light beam from said first optical system is incident at an oblique angle on a deflection surface of the deflection means in a sub scanning cross-sectional plane.

10. (Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising an optical scanning device according to claim 7,

wherein the width of a border area between adjacent deflection surfaces of the deflection means in a main scan direction is 1% or less of the width of each deflection surface in the main scan direction.

11. (Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising an optical scanning device according to claim 7,

wherein in a border area between adjacent deflection surfaces of the deflection means, one deflection surface extends over the other deflection surface, and the length of the extension in a main scan direction is 5% or less of the beam width of the light beam reflected and deflected from the deflection surface in the main scan direction.

12. (Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:
an optical scanning device according to claim 7;
a photoconductive body arranged on the scanning surface of said optical scanning device;
development means for developing, into a toner image, an electrostatic latent image that has been formed with the light beam scanning said photoconductive body;
transfer means for transferring the developed toner image onto a paper sheet; and
fixing means for fixing the transferred toner image onto the paper sheet.

13. (Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:
an optical scanning device according to claim 7; and
a printer controller for converting code data input from an external device into an image signal and feeding the image signal to said optical scanning device.

14. (Unchanged From Prior Version) An image forming apparatus according to one of claims 12 and 13, wherein the image is formed through a Background Area Exposure process.

15. (New) An optical scanning device comprising:
a first optical system, including a light source, for directing a light beam emitted from the light source to deflection means; and

a second optical system for focusing the light beam deflected by the deflection means on an effective scanning area of a scanning surface, wherein the light source is continuously kept lit when scanning outside of an effective scanning area.

16. (New) An image forming apparatus comprising:

an optical scanning device according to claim 15;

96 a photoconductive body arranged on the scanning surface of said optical scanning device;

development means for developing, into a toner image, an electrostatic latent image that has been formed with the light beam scanning said photoconductive body;

transfer means for transferring the developed toner image onto a paper sheet; and

fixing means for fixing the transferred toner image onto the paper sheet.

17. (New) An image forming apparatus comprising:

an optical scanning device according to claim 15; and

a printer controller for converting code data input from an external device into an image signal and feeding the image signal to said optical scanning device.

18. (New) An optical scanning device comprising:

a first optical system, including a light source, for directing a light beam

emitted from the light source to a deflection surface of deflection means in a beam width wider than the width of the deflection surface in a main scan direction; and

a second optical system for focusing the light beam deflected by the deflection means on an effective scanning area of a scanning surface,

wherein the light source is continuously kept lit when scanning outside of an effective scanning area.

19. (New) An image forming apparatus comprising:

an optical scanning device according to claim 18;

a photoconductive body arranged on the scanning surface of said optical scanning device;

development means for developing, into a toner image, an electrostatic latent image that has been formed with the light beam scanning said photoconductive body;

transfer means for transferring the developed toner image onto a paper sheet; and

fixing means for fixing the transferred toner image onto the paper sheet.

20. (New) An image forming apparatus comprising:

an optical scanning device according to claim 18; and

a printer controller for converting code data input from an external device into an image signal and feeding the image signal to said optical scanning device.